



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held January 11, 2005, the Board took the following action:

63-A

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Child abuse prevention is at the core of Los Angeles County’s commitment to keep children safe and protected. The recent death of a two-month-old child compels us to determine what more can be done to aid in the prevention of such tragedies. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is committed to addressing problems with families and their needs. DCFS must continue to develop more comprehensive approaches to assuring child safety, while balancing the needs of children to remain in their own homes, where feasible. The Compton Project and the Point of Engagement service delivery models both rely on extended family involvement to achieve this goal.

“The Compton Project has successfully utilized the Point of Engagement service delivery system, which has the goal of keeping children safely in their homes or when that is not possible, achieving permanency in a stable environment as soon as possible. The Point of Engagement service delivery system aims to provide comprehensive investigations of referrals through partnership with community-based service providers, in the areas of substance-abuse, mental health and domestic violence.

“The Point of Engagement model includes the team decision-making approach of community collaboration and full engagement of the family in development of the case plan, in order to achieve improved reunification, permanency and a reduced reliance on detentions. In this instance of a child’s death, despite current efforts, the process of team decision making did not result in a safe environment for a vulnerable child. In retrospect, obvious clues were missed. The ‘team decision making concept’ must be closely analyzed for flaws and those flaws must be addressed immediately.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to:

1. Develop a corrective action plan, as a result of the recent death of a two-month-old infant that will support current Department-wide prevention efforts; and
2. Report back to the Board within 90 days on the implementation of this corrective action plan, specifically regarding structured team decision-making and improvements in the quality of assessments.

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